



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
California/Nevada Operations Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 10, 1999

Mr. Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Lower San Joaquin River/South Delta ERP Actions

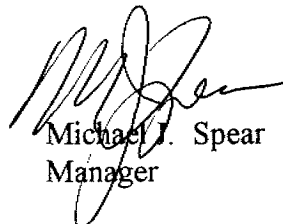
Dear Mr. Snow:

Thank you for your letter of August 2, 1999. I agree completely with CALFED's high priority on implementation of ecosystem restoration actions in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region. To move towards implementation of these projects, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will serve, along with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as the Federal co-lead agency for the purpose of initiating the NEPA/CEQA project planning process. I understand that the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will serve as the State lead agency, and will have overall responsibility for project management. I have asked Matt Vandenberg of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office to serve as the Service's staff coordinator for CALFED ecosystem and flood plain restoration in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region.

I expect that we will work closely with NMFS and CDFG in the near future to prepare a Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation. One of our earliest meetings should include a detailed discussion of finances, to ensure that all the involved agencies have the resources available to meet our ambitious schedule.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at (916) 414-6464, or ask your staff to contact Patrick Leonard or Matt Vandenberg in the SFWO at (916) 414-6600.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Spear
Manager

cc: Mr. Jim Lecky, NMFS, Long Beach, California
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, USBR, Sacramento, California